REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully

requested.

By the present preliminary amendment a new Abstract believed to be in more proper

format under United States practice is submitted.

Further, Claims 1-12 are canceled without prejudice and new Claims 13-24 are

presented for examination. New Claims 13-24 are deemed to be self-evident from the

original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues

of new matter. Further, new Claims 13-24 are not believed to be more narrow in scope in any

aspect in comparison with canceled Claims 1-12.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough

examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is

hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

Gregory J. Maier Attorney of Record Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423

I:\atty\Sns\278971us-pr.doc

7